

Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

335 South Kirkwood Road • St. Louis, Missouri 63122 • Phone 314/965.3700 • www.fsolph.org

September 2, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Office of the Administrator – 1101A
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear Secretary McCarthy,

As residents of the St. Louis region, we are writing you about the West Lake Landfill which has now become an emergency and should be treated as such.

The smoldering fire which was never supposed to be able to advance from the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill (South Quarry) into the North Quarry has now done so, moving still closer to known radiologically impacted materials. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources confirms that the materials that have been dumped in the North Quarry are unidentified but may also include radioactive wastes. No barrier device can be built until there is certainty about where all the radioactive waste can be found.

The EPA needs to call for an emergency removal action, systematically test the North Quarry for radioactivity, and actively undertake all preparations for the removal of the radioactive wastes. Time is no longer on our side.

Lastly, we ask EPA to provide a voluntary buyout for all those who live within one mile of the West Lake Landfill fence-line. People living in fear in Spanish Village and Terresan may want desperately to move but cannot due to loss of property value because of West Lake. EPA can help.

The lack of coordinated leadership in addressing the fire and the radioactive wastes at West Lake itself must be remediated for those in this region to regain confidence in our federal agencies. All actions to allay the march of the fire have proven ineffective, but there is no Plan B.

Franciscans for Earth

Please lead the way in addressing these serious threats to health and environment.

Sincerely,

Sister Renita Brummer

Sister Renita Brummer, OSF

Minister General

Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sister Rosalie Wisniewski, OSF

Sister Rosalie Wisniewski, OSF

Assistant Minister General

Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sister Cheryl Kemner

Sister Cheryl Kemner, OSF

Assistant Minister

Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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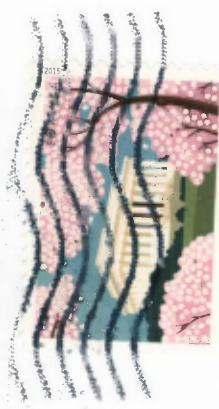
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